2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Measures to promote the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East and to fully implement the 1995 Middle East resolution

Report submitted by Algeria

1. Algeria considers that the creation of nuclear weapon-free zones (NWFZs), pursuant to Article VIII of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (the NPT), effectively contributes to the consolidation of regional and international peace and security, and to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and achievement of the goals of nuclear disarmament.

2. It therefore supports the promotion of nuclear weapon-free zones throughout the world. As Africa is the geographic region to which it belongs, it signed up to the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa issued by the Organization of African Unity. It also welcomes the entry into force of the Africa-Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty), which it was the third African country to ratify on 11 February 1998.

3. In the same spirit, Algeria welcomed the creation of NWFZs in Latin America and the Caribbean, in the South Pacific, in South-east Asia and in Central Asia, respectively, by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Central Asia. These instruments have unquestionably made an effective contribution to reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation and strengthening international peace and security

4. Algeria applauds the holding of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Forum on the relevance of ongoing experiences for the creation of an NWFZ in the Middle East, held in Vienna on 21 and 22 November 2011. The experiences of the five existing zones (Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific, South-east Asia, Africa, Central Asia), and of two regional verification agreements (EURATOM and ABACC), presented on that occasion, confirmed the feasibility of creating such a zone in the Middle East. Nonetheless, the importance of mutual trust between the States involved was noted, together with their common political will and the decisive role of the United Nations Organization, the IAEA and the five nuclear-weapon States, to bring about such a process. In this context, Algeria also expresses its appreciation at the IAEA for the information documents prepared prior to the conference on the creation of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

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5. Algeria reiterates the importance and validity of the goal of establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as a permanent and priority demand of the international community. It remains firmly supportive of that objective, which it views as an essential element for the stability and security of States in the region. Achieving that objective is a way to establish and promote regional and international peace and security.

6. It stresses that the objective of creating an NWFZ in the Middle East reflects an actual security requirement specific to the region. It thus rests on a specific political and legal foundation, in so far as it has been the subject of a resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. This resolution is an integral element in the framework of a global commitment that led the Arab States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to accept the indefinite extension of the treaty in 1995, in exchange for the creation of an NWFZ in the Middle East.

7. Algeria also notes that the final document of the Eighth Treaty Review Conference reaffirmed the continuing importance and validity of that resolution until its aims and objectives are attained. According to this document, a conference on the creation of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction should have been convened in 2012. Unfortunately, that objective has not yet been achieved owing to Israel's refusal. Algeria, with other Arab partners, has participated in the consultations held by the facilitator Jaakko Laajava (Finland), and it has supported his efforts to bring this process to fruition. Algeria again calls for the implementation of the NWFZ pursuant to the 1995 resolution. The States parties have explicitly asked Israel to adhere to the treaty and to submit its nuclear facilities to the IAEA safeguards regime.

8. As part of the process making it possible to fully apply the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the States parties had agreed at the 2010 Review Conference that "The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, will convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region, and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States. The 2012 Conference shall take as its terms of reference the 1995 Resolution."

9. Algeria wanted to thank the United Nations Secretary General, the Conference Facilitator Mr. Jaakko Laajava and the sponsors of the 1995 Resolution for their efforts.

Algeria deeply deplores the fact that this conference decision has not been implemented, despite its active and constructive commitment and good faith, and that of Arab countries, throughout the various consultations held by the Facilitator in the presence of the other sponsors, owing to the attitude of Israel aimed at diverting the process from its mandate and rendering the 1995 resolution devoid of content.

10. As a State party to the Treaty, Algeria signed in 1996 a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA; and it fully respects the obligations and commitments assumed under the Treaty. It considers that the comprehensive application of all of the provisions of the Treaty and its universal nature,

particularly in the Middle East region, are necessary conditions for the Treaty's integrity, authority and credibility.

11. Algeria has always resolutely supported efforts and initiatives aimed at promoting the creation of a Middle East NWFZ. In the framework of the Arab Group, it is one of the sponsors of the resolution on the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East, and it supports the resolution on the Establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East, adopted annually by the General Assembly. It also supported the resolution entitled "Application of the IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East", the latest version of which was adopted by the General Conference of the IAEA in 2014 (GC(58)/RES/16); and it is a joint sponsor of the resolution entitled "Israeli nuclear capacities" adopted by the 53rd ordinary session of the General Conference of the IAEA in 2009 (GC (53)/RES/17). It remains open to all United Nations initiatives aimed at launching a genuine negotiation process resulting in the implementation of the 1995 resolution pursuant to its mandate.